

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. We now have the chance to tell the phone companies, who've gouged us for years, to shove it. We should all go cell phones in the first place to send the message that land line service simply isn't worth it. That's the very reason I don't use basic phone service. We've already seen these companies backpedalling in an attempt to appear as "flat rate" oriented as cell phone companies. The competition is there so let's use it to our advantage. I wouldn't put too much stock in the FCC, however. This group is as corrupt and greedy as the phone companies themselves. It's all up to us as consumers to make changes. Next, we should take on oil.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.